

English: Pronouns

◆ What is a Pronoun?

A pronoun is a word used in place of a noun to avoid repetition.

✦ Example:

- *Ravi is a student. Ravi studies hard.*
- ☒ *Ravi is a student. He studies hard.*

◆ Types of Pronouns

NDA syllabus covers 9 types of pronouns. Let's understand each with examples:

1. Personal Pronouns

Refer to specific persons or things.

Person	Subject Pronoun	Object Pronoun
First Person	I, we	me, us
Second Person	you	you
Third Person	he, she, it, they	him, her, it, them

✦ Examples:

- I am a cadet.
- She is a teacher.
- The officers saluted them.

2. Possessive Pronouns

Show ownership or possession.

Possessive Adjectives Possessive Pronouns

my, your, his, her mine, yours, his, hers, ours, theirs

 Examples:

- This rifle is mine.
 - That notebook is hers.
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3. Reflexive Pronouns

Refer back to the subject.

Reflexive Pronouns

myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves

 Examples:

- He trained himself for NDA.
 - I prepared myself.
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4. Emphatic Pronouns

Used for emphasis, but not essential to sentence meaning.

 Examples:

- I myself completed the assignment.
 - She herself gave the speech.
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5. Demonstrative Pronouns

Point to specific things.

Singular Plural

this, that these, those

 Examples:

- This is important.
 - Those are NDA aspirants.
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6. Interrogative Pronouns

Used to ask questions.

Interrogative Pronouns

who, whom, whose, which, what

📌 *Examples:*

- Who is on duty?
 - What is your aim?
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7. Relative Pronouns

Link a clause to a noun.

Relative Pronouns

who, whom, whose, which, that

📌 *Examples:*

- The cadet who topped the exam was rewarded.
 - The weapon that was found is dangerous.
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8. Indefinite Pronouns

Refer to non-specific people or things.

Singular Plural Both

someone, anybody, few, many, others, all, any, none

📌 *Examples:*

- Everyone must carry their admit card.
 - Many joined the training.
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9. Reciprocal Pronouns

Show mutual relationship between two or more.

Reciprocal Pronouns

each other, one another

 Examples:

- The teammates respect each other.
 - The cadets helped one another.
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 Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement (Very Important for NDA)

A pronoun must agree with its antecedent (the noun it replaces) in:

- Number (singular/plural)
 - Gender (masculine/feminine)
 - Person (first/second/third)
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 Key Rules:

1. Singular antecedent → Singular pronoun
 *The soldier finished his mission.*
 *The soldier finished their mission.*
 2. Plural antecedent → Plural pronoun
 *The officers submitted their reports.*
 3. Compound subjects with “and” → Plural pronoun
 *Ravi and Sita finished their training.*
 4. Subjects joined by “or” / “neither-nor” → Pronoun agrees with closer noun
 *Neither the captain nor the soldiers forgot their duty.*
 *Either the cadets or the officer will bring his ID.*
 5. Each, Every, Either, Neither → Singular pronoun
 *Each cadet must bring his document.*
 6. Collective nouns → Singular or plural based on meaning
 *The committee gave its opinion.*
 *The committee argued among themselves.*
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 NDA Error Spotting Examples:

-  *Each of the students submitted their form.*
-  *Each of the students submitted his form.*

✗ ***Neither Rahul nor Ravi brought their notes.***

✓ ***Neither Rahul nor Ravi brought his notes.***

◆ Common Error-Prone Areas

- Mixing singular noun with plural pronoun
- Using reflexive pronoun incorrectly
- Using “who” vs “whom” wrong
- Misplacing possessive vs object form

📄 Summary Table

Type	Function	Example
Personal	Replaces a noun (subject/object)	He, she, it, them
Possessive	Shows ownership	mine, yours, theirs
Reflexive	Refers back to subject	himself, herself
Emphatic	Adds emphasis	himself, herself
Demonstrative	Points to things	this, those
Interrogative	Forms questions	who, what
Relative	Connects clauses	who, which, that
Indefinite	Unspecified people/things	someone, many
Reciprocal	Mutual relationship	each other, one another
Pronoun-Antecedent	Matches pronoun to noun	Ravi → he, cadets → they